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vails. In the agricultural period its existence depends largely on free land and, in general, Nieboer concludes that it is rarely prominent among people with closed resources. In brief, slavery is least likely to be profitable where subsistence is difficult to obtain. Consequently the land question, both as regards quality of land and systems of land-holding, is one of fundamental importance.

The descriptive portions of the book are less satisfying than the theoretical. The authorities used are the best available and an enormous amount of labor is represented in the results obtained, but the arrangement is somewhat stiff and mechanical. It is in clear interpretation and lucid, usable conclusions that the author excels. The fact that the book was written in English by a Dutch scholar gives it special interest. Only a few minor slips are observable in the text, e. g. "Europa," "bij" instead of by, "Shahnees," etc. There is an elaborate index and a map showing the distribution of slave-keeping tribes.

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A Suffolk Hundred in the Year 1283. By EDGAR POWELL. (London: Cambridge University Press. 1910. Pp. xxxiv, 121, 38 tables.)

Not the least useful part of Mr. Powell's earlier volume, *The Rising in East Anglia in 1381*, is the transcript of tax lists printed in the appendix. His new book is primarily documentary, the introduction being short and the notes brief. It is concerned with two statistical records, to the more important of which Mr. Hudson called attention in 1899. In this we have what seems to be the only extant detailed return for a tax of one thirtieth levied in 1283 to finance Edward I's Welsh wars. Upon some seventy membranes are recounted by parishes the grain and livestock of each person upon whom the tax fell in the hundred of Blackbourne, Suffolk. The value of all items is given. Instead of transcribing the roll literally, Mr. Powell has taken the trouble to arrange its information in serviceable tables, to which he has added summaries and notes. The task has been one of much labor carefully performed.

Study of such local documents as this is much to be desired in early English social and economic history. At present we are in uncertainty about population, distribution of wealth, land tenures and changing personal status. The inventory of 1283 re-

lates in a measure to the first two of these subjects. The principal limitation upon its usefulness, as is so often the case with manorial records, lies in its isolation. Unless it be supplemented with other information not too remote in time, generalizations even for this Suffolk hundred become difficult. The other long document printed by Mr. Powell does not meet this need any too happily. It is a record of certain freeholds of the hundred, chiefly those of the abbey of Bury St. Edmunds, copied by the monks into one of the abbey registers from a survey made in 1280. Since there is no pretense to completeness in the enumeration, the value of the list is illustrative except in the few parishes entirely owned by Bury or held of its barony.

Most obviously available in the tax return of 1283 are the new data on prices. Valuations are given for all kinds of grain and livestock in each of thirty-four parishes. Roger's information for the year 1283 is from the eastern, southern and midland counties. Wheat (24 places), oats (33 places), peas (15 places) were, he says, dear, while barley (22 places) was relatively cheap. Suffolk prices, as the following table shows, were markedly lower than the English average, or were in this instance systematically depressed for purposes of taxation.

	Wheat s. d.	Rye s. d.	Barley s. d.	Oats s. d.	Oxen s. d.	Cows s. d.	Ewes s. d.	Hogs s. d.
Rogers' average, 1271-80	5, 7½(qu.)	4, 9½	4, 4½	2, 4½	10, 0½	6, 10	1, 8½	2, 5½
Rogers' average, 1283	6, 11½	5, 4½	4, 5½	2, 4½	9, 9	5, 9	1, 3½	3, 6½
Prices in Blackbourne hundred, 1283	6, 0	4, 4	4, 0	2, 0	5, 8	3, 11½	0, 11½	0, 10

Information about population and the distribution of wealth in the different parishes seems to be promised by the tax lists. Yet they fail us in two respects. No distinction is made between freeholders and villeins, while all residents having less than one half mark's worth of grain or livestock are omitted. For supplementary data we need extents with their specifications regarding the number and status of tenants. Perceiving this, Mr. Powell has printed three and referred to two others. His introduction would have been more serviceable had he worked out further generalizations from a comparison of his various documents. It is possible to place beside the moveable wealth of certain persons on the tax list the number of acres assigned to them in the list of freeholders and in the extent of Bardwell. This would amplify our ideas about the distribution of wealth. It is possible, too, to esti-

mate the fraction of the population omitted from the tax lists, i. e. the number of those who did not possess grain and livestock worth one half mark. The extent of Rickinghall Inferior, nineteen years later, explains that there were 32 free tenants, 65 molmen, and 4 customary tenants. Of the free tenants the 14 who did labor services were probably resident, and 9 certainly were so. The 58 names of the tax list are thus represented by upwards of 78 in the extent. A discrepancy like this or even greater appears relative to three other parishes for which the extents are printed. In only one is there closer correspondence. We are led to infer that the families too poor to own a cow or a few bushels of grain formed a considerable fraction of the population—perhaps one fourth.

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Agrarpolitik und Agrarreform in Spanien unter Carl III. By RUDOLF LEONHARD. (München: J. Schweitzer. 1909. Pp. viii, 331.)

The field of Spanish economic history has attracted the attention of so few investigators that it is indeed a pleasure to note an important addition to their ranks. Dr. Leonhard's work was begun under the direction of Professor Brentano, and carried on in the archives at Madrid. No mention is made of the innumerable local and provincial collections which at once occur to the critical reader as fruitful sources of material upon this subject. His bibliography is ample, and its usefulness to the student is enhanced by a convenient arrangement of the titles under such headings as "Feudalism," "Majorate," "Mesta," "Taxation and Finance," "Agriculture and Irrigation," "Poor Relief," etc. The list is not without certain shortcomings: as the absence of the important contributions by Laporta in agricultural history, Hurtado in financial history, and Garrido in industrial history.

The work may be divided into three headings of about equal length. After an inadequate summary of the political situation, he takes up the first of these divisions, namely, the general economic development of Spain up to the period under discussion (1759-1788). The treatment of this subject is both too extensive and too brief: as an introduction to the agrarian history of the reign of Charles III, the thirty pages on the general development of internal administration in Spain are quite unnecessary, while the reader would welcome a more ample discussion of such